

Applicant: G. Triantopoulos et al.
Application Serial No.: 10/654,638
Filing Date: September 4, 2003
Docket No.: 577-520 CON
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REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 14-17 remain pending in the application. Claims 4, 7, and 9 have been amended without adding new matter. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to claims 2 and 5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 7-9 are indicated as being allowed by the Examiner. This determination is gratefully acknowledged.

The Examiner has objected to claims 4, 7 and 9 due to some informalities. Claims 4, 7 and 9 have been amended according to Examiner's suggestion.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection of Claims 4

The Examiner has rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Specifically Examiner asserts that the drawings show each aperture comprises only one shape and size in one particular connector. The Examiner also contends that the aperture can have different shapes and sizes, but each different shape and size is provided in different connectors and further, not all different shapes and sizes are provided in one connector.

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Contrary to Examiner's assertion, Figure 3 does show each aperture comprising different shapes and sizes in one connector. The support of the same is described on page 6, lines 4-8.

Before proceeding to address the Examiner's rejection, Applicants will briefly summarize one of the embodiments of the invention to assist the Examiner in better appreciating the differences between Applicants' invention and the art of record.

The present invention provides a ground connector having a deformable generally U-Shaped conductive body including a pair of legs projecting from the body. The legs define a central slot configured for receiving a bus bar therein. A plurality of teeth on at least one of the legs project into the slot to establish an electrical connection between the bus bar and the body. Additionally, the body has at least one aperture to receive at least one conductor therein so that when the body is deformed to initiate a partial crimp between the body and the conductor within the aperture, the central slot is slightly opened to receive the bus bar therein.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 14-17

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schrader (U.S. Patent 5,103,068) in view of Park (U.S. Patent 5,936,200). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Schrader discloses a connector having slots or channels for insertion of cables or conductors into the connector. Additionally, a groove is provided in one or more surfaces of the

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connector and an elongated tying device is press-fitted into the groove. This tying device extends sufficiently enough so as to be twisted around to the ends of conductors preparatory to the crimping process.

The connector disclosed in Schrader clearly differs from the ground connector disclosed and claimed in the present invention. The Examiner relies on Figure 3 of Schrader to reject claim 1. However, the connector in Figure 3 is a H-frame connector with surface in the middle and on the sides and a slot on each side. Schrader fails to show a central slot defined by the legs as recited in claims 1 and 14 of the present invention. The slot 32 of Schrader is one of the side slots of the connector.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, Schrader fails to disclose a busbar being received in the central slot, a plurality of teeth on at least one of the legs projecting into the slot, or the central slot being slightly opened when the body is deformed to initiate a partial crimp between the body the conductor within the aperture.

Additionally, Examiner points to Park for allegedly disclosing a wire connector comprising a plurality of teeth (39) projecting inward of a slot (37) to grip, hold and make electrical contact with a wire inserted therein. The Examiner further contends that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide one of the legs of Schrader with the teeth taught by Park to not only make electrical contact with the busbar but also to grip and hold the busbar therein.

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Finally, the Examiner contends that from the common knowledge and common sense of a person of ordinary skill in the art and from Figure 3 of Schrader, it can be seen that if only the aperture 34 of the body 30 was initially crimped to provide the electrical contact between the aperture and the conductor, then the central slot 32 of the body would be slightly opened.

Contrary to Examiner's assertion, Park does not show the plurality of teeth projecting into the slot claimed in claims 1 and 14 of the present invention.

Park shows an electrical or connector junction box with sets of terminals (13) extending through each side wall. Each set of terminals receive wires which extend through openings provided in the walls. Each terminal includes an outer insulator cover (35) and an inner surface (37) having teeth (39) for gripping and holding the wire. The inner surface of the terminal of Park is clearly not the central slot of the present invention. Also, there is no suggestion in Park to establish an electrical connection between the bus bar and the connector body as recited in claims 1 and 14 of the present invention.

Neither of the references, Schrader nor Park, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a central slot configured to receiving a bus bar therein and establishing an electrical connection between the bus bar and the connector body as disclosed and claimed in the present invention. Therefore claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 14-17 define patentability over the cited combination.

Furthermore, as discussed above, Schrader is not at all concerned with crimping or to initiate a partial crimp between the conductor and the connector. Schrader simply secures the

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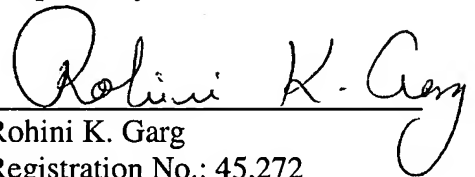
conductor to the connector prior to the crimping. Therefore, absent any teaching or suggestion of crimping, it would not be a common knowledge of a person of ordinary skill to initially crimp the aperture of Schrader to provide an electrical contact between body and the conductor within the aperture which in turn slightly opens the slot of Schrader. Accordingly, Schrader does not render obvious pending claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 14-17.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, Applicants deems this application, including claims 1-9 and 14-17, is in condition for allowance and solicits such action. In the event that any issues remain following entry of this amendment, Applicants' agent respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned agent at the telephone number given below for either a personal or telephone interview if the Examiner believes that such would expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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